

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06038 01 OF 02 102035Z

67

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 NSC-05 H-02 DHA-02 L-03

SY-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W

----- 097295

R 101440Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 6038

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (DAVIS, JOHN W)

SUBJ: BRAZILIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF DAVIS FAMILY INCIDENTS

REF: BRASILIA 6033

1. BEGIN SUMMARY:

THE DAVIS CASE HAS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE THIS PAST WEEK. ALL THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED THE STORY WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ACCURACY. JORNAL DO BRASIL (RIO) HAS RUN IT AS A STRAIGHT NEWS ITEM AND HAS BEEN THE MOST FACTUAL. O GLOBO (RIO) WAS INITIALLY INACCURATE IN ITS COVERAGE BUT WITH THE CLOSING OFF OF THE AREA TO REPORTERS ITS ACCOUNTS HAVE BECOME MORE FACTUAL. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO HAS BEEN VERY INACCURATE AND BIASED AGAINST THE DAVIS FAMILY. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (WHICH DOES NOT PUBLISH ON MONDAYS) MADE UP FOR LOST TIME BY HAVING THE MOST INACCURATE AND SUBJECTIVE REPORTING, ATTRIBUTING INFORMATION, MOST OF IT INCORRECT, TO VAGUE AND UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JORNAL DO BRASIL (RIO) HAS PROVIDED THE MOST FACTUAL COVERAGE OF THE JULY 3 INCIDENT. JORNAL OF JULY 6 REPORTED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRASIL 06038 01 OF 02 102035Z

THAT MR. DAVIS, SR. HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED IN BELEM AND

THAT THE BODIES OF BRUCE AND MALLARY DAVIS HAD BEEN EMBALMED IN BELEM AND RETURNED TO THE RANCH FOR BURIAL. THE REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT A VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE HAS BEEN ORDERED BY JUSTICE MINISTER FALCAO. JORNAL OF JULY 8 DESCRIBES THE FINDING OF TWO UNIDENTIFIED BODIES SOME 35 KILOMETERS FROM THE AREA OF THE INCIDENT. THE FINDING OF THE TWO BODIES, ACCORDING TO THE JORNAL, "CONFIRMS FOR THE SQUATTERS THAT THE DAVISES DID FIRE WHICH DISAGREES WITH THE INFORMATION WHICH SAYS THAT THE OWNERS OF THE FAZENDA WERE UNARMED." JORNAL STORY GOES ON TO DESCRIBE CURRENT MEDICAL CONDITION OF MR. DAVIS AND DESCRIBES THE DAVIS FAMILY AS VERY RELIGIOUS AND GIVES AN ACCOUNTING OF THEIR MISSIONARY WORK IN BRAZIL. JORNAL CLOSSES WITH A HOUSTON BYLINE CONSISTING OF AN ACCUSATION BY THE WIDOW OF MALLORY DAVIS. IN IT KATHLEEN DAVIS STATES "MY HUSBAND WAS KILLED BY GUNMEN CONTRACTED FOR BY MILLIONAIRES IN SAO PAULO, INTERESTED IN OUR LAND DUE TO ITS INCREASED VALUE."

3. O GLOBO (RIO) BEGAN ITS COVERAGE ON JULY 5 WITH A RATHER SKETCHY AND INACCURANTE (CLAIMING FOUR DEAD) DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT. THE ARTICLE CONTINUED WITH A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT MENTIONING THAT THE DAVISES HAD BEEN ACCUSED BY THE SQUATTERS OF TRYING TO TAKE THEIR LAND AND CLOSE IT OFF WITH BARBED WIRE THUS IMPEDING THEIR CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO SCHOOL (ACCORDING TO AMCONSUL BELEM THERE ARE NO SCHOOLS NEAR DAVIS'S PROPERTY). O GLOBO OF JULY 6 STATES "IT IS KNOWN THAT MR. DAVIS, SR. REACTED WITH A MACHINE GUN AND CAUSED WOUNDS TO MANY OF THE SQUATTERS." (DAVIS FAMILY HAVE NO MACHINEGUN--FOR WEAPONS INVOLVED IN INCIDENT SEE BRASILIA 5895.) O GLOBO GOES ON TO DESCRIBE THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE AMBUSH STATING THAT "MR. DAVIS WHO WAS ACCUSTOMED TO WALK AROUND ARMED, AT TIMES WITH A MACHINEGUN, REACTED PROMPTLY TO THE FIRE BUT HIS TWO SONS FELL DEAD ANYWAY." O GLOBO OF JULY 7 TELLS OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE TWO UNIDENTIFIED CORPSES "HIT BY THE MACHINE GUN OF JOHN DAVIS, SR." O GLOBO CONTINUES "THE POLICE STATION AT PARAGOMINAS DID NOT CONFIRM THE DISCOVERY OF THE TWO CORPSES." O GLOBO OF JULY 8 RELATES ONLY THAT THE CASE IS NOW UNDER FEDERAL POLICE INVESTIGATION AND DESCRIBES MEASURES BEING TAKEN. O GLOBO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRASIL 06038 01 OF 02 102035Z

ALSO CARRIES THE ACCUSATION MADE BY KATHLEEN DAVIS AND HAS HER STATE FURTHER "MY FATHER-IN-LAW WAS PERSECUTED THESE PAST THREE YEARS BY PEOPLE HIRED TO MAKE HIM LEAVE HIS PROPERTY."

4. THE FOLHA DE SAO PAULO OF JULY 6 MADE THE INCIDENT A FRONT-PAGE STORY SAYING THAT THE AMERICANS WERE AMBUSHED "THEY WERE ARMED WITH MACHINE GUNS BUT THEY COULDN'T

RESIST THE CROSSFIRE OF THE SQUATTERS." FOLHA STORY STATES THAT INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY FENCING IN OF DAVIS PROPERTY WHICH SEPARATED SQUATTERS FROM WATER AND DURING INCIDENT ONLY ONE OF THE DAVISES WAS ARMED WITH A MACHINE GUN (IN CONTRAST TO FRONT-PAGE OUTLINE). FOLHA STORY SAYS THAT THE SQUATTERS OCCUPIED THE LAND PRIOR TO ITS PURCHASE BY THE DAVIS FAMILY AND THAT DAVIS PERSECUTED THEM BECAUSE THEY COMPETED WITH HIS LUMBER BUSINESS. DAVIS ALSO MADE DEATH THREATS AGAINST THE SQUATTERS. REPORTER GOES ON TO DESCRIBE THE REGION "AS ONE WHERE THERE ARE A FEW OWNERS OF LARGE HOLDINGS, WHILE OTHERS WORK LIKE SLAVES." REPORTER ALSO MENTIONS THAT "SOME YEARS AGO DAVIS WAS ACCUSED OF DISTRIBUTING INTRA-UTERINE DEVICES AND UNTIL THIS DAY THE TRUTH IS NOT KNOWN". (DAVIS WAS INVESTIGATED ON THIS CHARGE IN MARANHÃO SOME YEARS AGO AND FOUND INNOCENT.) A FOLHA OF JULY 8 RELATES THE DIFFICULTY ITS REPORTERS ENCOUNTERED AS THE ARMY AND FEDERAL POLICE HAVE CLOSED THE AREA TO JOURNALISTS BUT FINISHES ITS STORY BY QUOTING EMMA DAVIS (BUT WITHOUT CONFIRMATION) "SHE BLAMES OWNERS OF NEIGHBORING RANCHES AND SHE SAYS SHE KNOWS OF MANY THINGS OF WHICH SHE CANNOT SPEAK."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06038 02 OF 02 102026Z

67

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SS-15

NSC-05 SY-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /058 W

----- 097248

R 101440Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6709

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 6038

5. THE ESADO DE SAO PAULO (WHICH IS NOT PUBLISHED ON

MONDAYS) OF JULY 6 STATES THAT "MR. DAVIS, ALTHOUGH WOUNDED, HAD MANAGED TO RETREAT TO HIS CAR, WHERE HE RETURNED FIRE WITH A BELGIAN AUTOMATIC CARBINE THAT HE ALWAYS CARRIED INSIDE." THE O ESTADO STORY CONTINUES WITH A BACKGROUND HISTORY, MENTIONING THE HE HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF RUNNING A SECRET BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM BUT WAS FOUND INNOCENT. STORY CONTINUES BY MENTIONING THAT THE LAND OWNED BY DAVIS HAD ALREADY BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE SQUATTERS WHO HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXPELLED FROM THEIR NATIVE STATE (MARANHÃO) BY THE BIG LANDOWNERS. O ESTADO STATES FURTHER THAT DAVIS HAD RESOLVED TO FENCE OFF THE SQUATTERS FROM THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF WATER AND IN ANOTHER INCIDENT TIRED TO STOP A POLICE PATROL WITH HIS CARBINE BUT WAS DISARMED AND FLED. O ESTADO OF JULY 7 STATES "OBSERVERS IN BELEM CONCLUDED YESTERDAY THAT JOHN DAVIS, R. SR. HAD FINALLY MANAGED TO OBTAIN COMPLETE CONTROL OF HIS LAND, BUT A VERY HEAVY PRICE, THE LIVES OF HIS TWO SONS. THIS IS BECAUSE, THEY AFFIRMED, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SQUATTERS TO RETURN TO THE LAND THAT THEY OCCUPIED, DUE TO THE GREAT UPROAR IN THIS MATTER, THAT MOBILIZED THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE U.S. EMBASSY." O ESTADO STORY CONTINUES BY SAYING THAT WHEN MR. DAVIS PURCHASED THE LAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRASIL 06038 02 OF 02 102026Z

IN 1967, IT WAS ALREADY OCCUPIED BY MANY SQUATTERS. DAVIS HAD MANAGED TO EXPEL MANY OF THEM THROUGH THREATS OF DEATH AND HAD ADOPTED RECENTLY EVEN MORE DRASTIC MEASURES SUCH AS CUTTING 90 FAMILIES OFF FROM THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF WATER." O ESTADO OF JULY 8 WRITES CONCERNING THE DISCOVERY OF TWO UNIDENTIFIED CORPSES 35 KILOMETERS FROM THE AREA "THIS DISCOVERY REINFORCES THE CONVICTION THAT MR. DAVIS ACTUALLY REACTED TO THE ATTACK. HE AS WELL AS HIS SONS HAD THE CAPACITY TO RESIST. EVEN THEIR FRIENDS SAY THAT MR. DAVIS IS VERY ENERGETIC, INTOLERANT AND EVEN VIOLENT, IN SPITE OF HAVING COME HERE AS A MISSIONARY. HIS TWO SONS, ABOVE ALL MALLORY, ARE ALSO KNOWN TO BE GOOD SHOTS." O ESTADO CONTINUES WITH INFORMATION THAT THE INCIDENT IS UNDER FEDERAL INVESTIGATION WHICH SHOULD "DISMISS THE HYPOTHESIS THAT STRANGERS HAD INFLUENCED THE FARMWORKERS TO ATTACK THE RANCHER."

6. COMMENT: ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT THE DAVISES WERE AMBUSHED. NO PRESS ACCOUNT MENTIONS THAT BRUCE AND MALLORY DAVIS WERE ONLY WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE AND SUBSEQUENTLY CLUBBED TO DEATH. ACCOUNT THAT THE DAVIS FAMILY CARRIED MACHINE GUNS OR AN AUTOMATIC CARBINE AND THAT A BADLY WOUNDED AND SEMIPARALYZED MR. DAVIS, SR. HAD MANAGED TO GET BACK TO HIS TRUCK TO GET A WEAPON AND RETURN THE FIRE OF THE AMBUSHERS WAS CARRIED IN SEVERAL PAPERS. THE RIO PRESS CARRIED THE ACCUSATIONS OF THE WIDOWN OF MALLORY DAVIS ABOUT BEHIND THE SCENES PAULISTA INFLUENCE. THE PAULISTA PRESS,

PARTICULARLY O ESTADO, HAS BEEN THE MOST INACCURATE AND
BIASED IN ITS REPORTING. O ESTADO STORIES CONTAIN MUCH
FALSE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS PRECEDING THE SHOOTING AND
HAS INCLUDED INFORMATION PREJUDICIAL TO THE DAVISES
WHICH HAS NO BEARING ON THE CASE AT HAND. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL06038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0223
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760771/aaaackkl.tel
Line Count: 229
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRASILIA 6033
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRAZILIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF DAVIS FAMILY INCIDENTS
TAGS: CASC, (DAVIS, JOHN W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006